KNAVES
ARE
No honeſt Men.
OR,
More Knaves yet,
A Couple well met.

Being
A briefe Diſcourſe concerning the (Offices and) Humours of *Quarterman* and *VVaterton*, being both Jacks out of Office.

VVhich if they were nameleſſe,
yet I make no doubt,
A man that hath ſenſes,
may ſoone ſmell them out.

Compoſed by *I. L.* a lover of honeſt Men, and hater of Knaves; and Printed in the yeare of the diſcoverie of a Couple.

85.16

More Knaves yet:

Or,

A Couple well met.

Quarterman.

WHat, Brother Waterton! Now as I am a Gentleman, and by this martiall hand of mine, I reioyce to see thee: and though the splendant Sunne of our Glory be now Eclipsed for a while, yet let us not quite cast downe our drouping spirits; but let us rather strive to comfort one another, and seeke to thaw the Frozen Zoane of our carefull hearts with a Cup of Old Canarie.

Waterton. Brother *Quarterman*, I most humbly thanke you for your kindnesse; and am most willing to attend your portly person to the Taverne, but I beseech ye Sir, not too much of that *Canarie*: for indeed the truth

is, we are counted *Canarie-Birds* by too many alreadie; and therefore it is sufficient that we content our selves with a Quart (or a Pottle) of burnt *Claret*, and so to clarifie our injuried soules from the scandalous report of our reproachfull enemies.

Quart. How! Who dare be so presumptious, as to take notice of our proceedings? It is not so long that we have beene out of our Offices, for all the world to take notice; Let us make our selves busie still: Hast thou never an old Staffe of Office to take in thy hand; were it but the thick end of a Brome-stick should appeare in mine, in the likenesse of a Truncheon, it were enough to strike terror into the hearts of a hundred people: But what Newes doest thou heare abroad, I prethée, concerning the Times?

War. Verily, brother *Quarterman*, it is suspected amongst our Brethren, that the King will come to the Citie, which cannot be without great prejudice to all our Societie, and to us two especially: for as I hope to live, or to be honoured with the Name of High-Constable of *Wapping* againe, I had rather see *Pauls* Steeple fall to the very ground, then the King should come with honour to *London* againe.

Quart.

Quart. Ile tell thee, Brother Waterton, if so be that I had persevered still in the sevcare Office of my mercilesse Marshallzie, I would have had Paules by this time bin ready to run into little St. Gregories, for her sanctuary, which now by reason I am sack out of office, (and the Kings coming to towne,) may be prevented, otherwayes it could not have stood: for when I was first made Marshall, I had no sooner entred into my Office but Cheape-side-Crosse fell presently into an Agonie, and I had no sooner said, downe with it, but downe it went: Heavens grant that I never may see the resurrection of the body thereof, lest I should be called into question for my presumption at the pulling of it downe.

Wat. Indeed Brother Quarterman, it was an admirable piece of service for the pulling down of that superstition and idolatry, and therefore there is none but such as are inclin'd to Popery that can accuse you for doing of that great work of piety.

Quart. Verily Brother VVaterton, a man would have thought so, and yet for all that I was never the better beloved in the City, for my great care and paines-taking in those pyous workes of Reformation.

Wat. Hang love, (Brother Quarterman,) since

since we can not have it, for indeed it belongs not to men of our qualitie to be beloved, but rather to be feared, yet the truth, is both you and I have been too favourable in our Offices, and as the old saying is, *too much pity spoyles a Citie.*

For this should be our common use,
Never to take, but give abuse:
To hang upon the rich mens purses,
And gaine a thousand beggers curses.

Quart. Nay, by the masse Brother Waterton, I never wanted for beggers curses, and the rich sometimes to boot, I would they had cause to curse me still, for I was like to the Kite, the more they curst me the better I thrive, and they shall have good cause for't as long as I live.

Wat. I, but alasse Sir the slaves are now delivered out of our own hands, and we both being both disarmed of our Authority, are subject unto injury as well as other men, (and by pye and pudding,) now that I am turn'd out of my Office I am afraid that I shall be called to give an accompt, for some things that have beene done in the time of my Constableship brother (*Quarterman*) this was a very strange and unexpected alteration; that I who lately durst punish or imprison right or wrong, am now of

a ſudden come to that paſſe, that I can ſecure my perſon no more then he that never bore Office before in all his life time.

Quart. Truly Brother VVaterton, the caſe is not onely yours, but alſo mine, for I do verily believe that we are both ſick of one diſeaſe, and the one as uncureable as the other, for which the only Phyſick is as followeth, an ounce of honour, mixt with a pottle of preferment, put into a gallon Boule of ſecuritie, and made into a poſſet, under the great miltch Cow of the Common-wealth.

Wat. And is that good for an Ague I pray you brother *Quarterman*, for I feele a kind of ſhaking and ſhivering in my bones, that I am afraid things are not as they ſhould be with me.

Quart. Well, truly and I do believe that the moſt of our Blood is troubled with the ſame diſeaſe, are they not thinke you? pray ye tell me how all does about you in Wapping, and Stepney Pariſh, how fares it with my two Brothers Andrew and Benjamin, my Siſter Prudence and Priſcilla, with the reſt of our dearely beloved Friends and Tub-Preachers, are not they troubled with a ſhaking too? if they be not already, I am afraid it will come upon them very ſhortly, if they uſe not ſome ſpeedy meanes to prevent it.

Wat. I but do you thinke there is no other cure for us, but that onely which you told me of before.

Quart. Yes, the best way else is to take a wooden Horse, and so hoyst away for New-England, for the change of the Country may be the meanes to alter the constitution of the body.

Wat. But stay, Ile see a little further first, a man had almost as good venture a hanging here, as to leave his friends and meanes behind him, to hazard a drowning, to go to *New-England* or *Virginia*.

Quart. O Sir, but you looke very ill on't already, and your disease begins to appeare very desperate, and desperate diseases requires desperat cures, as the Proverb saith;

And therefore Brother as you will,
Either goe, or tarry still.

Wat. In truth Brother *Quarterman*, you and the Doctor are both in one opinion of me, and most men tells me that I droope mightily of a sudden, and indeed I find a great alteration in my selfe, not to be the like man I have beene formerly, neither at home nor abroad: but if it be so that rich men are mortall and must dye, Ile now take my chance in *Old-*

England,

England, and if I dye well, so; if ill, then let all (High-Constables) learne to be good in their Offices, and take heed how they leane too much upon a Rotten-Staffe, though here so richly painted.

Quart. Well, would I had considered as much before as I do now, for I perceive that he who meddles the least, is counted for the honestest man, and if you and I had taken that course, I thinke it had beene the wisest way for us both.

VVat. Why, if I had knowne of it. I would have sent you word by one of my servants, to have given you notice of some of your Adversaries, by a trusty friend, one *Munck* a Cobler, and one of the bravest fellows to carry a message in the world; were it betwixt the *Turke* and the *Devill*, he would have let no flies stick upon his heeles I warrant you, but would have helpt you to have scowr'd your enemie, from the very nose to the touch-hole behind.

Quart. But now Brother Waterton, I thinke it would be a wise course both for you and me, as the times goe, to seeke our peace, and be in charity with all men.

VVat. O Sir, but it is a question whether they will be in Charity with us or no, for indeed the time hath beene that they would, when we would not, ye know that we have had

had good dayes, when they have felt sorrow, for before that I was thrown out of my Office then who but M. *Waterton* High Constable of *Wapping*, how then but good your worship standing with their hats in their hands, with bending knees, & now alasse there is a qualme come over my stomack, good Brother *Quarterman* fill me the tother cup of Claret quickly.

Quart. What, ill againe man? your fits comes very thick upon you.

War. Yes Brother *Quarterman*, but I wonder they come no faster upon thee, you told me that to take a wooden Horse and so for new *England* was the second best medicine, but what doe you thinke by the wooden Horse, the Gallows I pray ye, they say that that's good for an Ague too, and you being so well acquainted with the Hangman, I make no doubt but he will give you leave to chuse your corner.

Quart. I but Brother Waterton, I hope you are not come to feare me for my good counsell?

Water. No Brother *Quarterman*, and yet I have heard that as honest a man as either you or I has dyed in the winter.

Qua. Brother Waterton, to tell you the very truth, I thought y I had an Ague upon me, which

which now I find other wayes, and rather that it is a strong surfit which I toke above a dozen yeares agoe.

Water. Why, was it with eating hot graines with a Sow for a wager, at that time you plaid the Brewers servant.

Quart. **Well Brother Waterton, but I am sure that you toke not a surfit when you strove with the woman at Wapping for your Christmas Dayes Dinner, as they call it, when you toke the peece of leane beefe from her, and she saved you a labour in fetching your Pye, and Pudding, from the Bake-house.**

Wat Well, but for all that I verily believe mine is a surfit too, and as I imagin a cold surfit, which as neere as I can, Ile tell you how I came by it, upon a cold winters night a Seaman and his wife came at an unseasonable houre from drinking which I perceiving, and being loath to disturbe the Neighbours, or trouble the Watch, went in curtesie to helpe them to a lodging my selfe, which indeed was the Cage, and comming to the doore when I opened the Lock, the knavish Seaman being too strong for me, thrust me in, and withall lockt the doore againe, and then threw away the Key into a Ditch, and when he had done, he went away laughing at the knavish trick which he hah served me.

Quarter. Oh what an impudent Rascal was that, to offer to be so presumptious, as to put you into the Cage, knowing you to be the High-Constable of VVapping, and one that had borne Office so long in the Parish as you have done: but was none of your Neighbours neare at that time, to stop the Knave before he were gone too farre?

Wat. No indeed, and they were, it seemes they bare me not so much good-will as to do it, for as I heard since, they rejoyced at it, and laugh at the businesse as much as the knave that did it.

Quart. It seemes by the Story there was good neighbour-hood among them, and yet me thinks that if they would not doit for love, feare should have compel'd them to have done it, but how long did you stay there?

Water. Marry till such time as the Rounds came by to release me, and then I had like to have had my braines knockt out.

Quart. Your braines knockt out man, (marry Heavens forbid,) by what meanes I pray you Sir?

Wat. By one of the watch-men, who had got a cup in his head more then the rest of his fellowes, coming to the Cage and asking what I was, to whom I answered, saying, M. *Waterton*, High-Constable of *VVapping*,

Quart.

Quart. Well, but I hope he did not offer to strike or abuse you for telling him the truth?

Wat. No, but he put me into a damnable fear that he would have done it, being mistaken in the darke he told me I lyed, and said if I would not hold my prating, but abuse the High-Constable of *Wapping's* name in that manner, he would knock my Cocks-combe for me, as it was never knockt since the first time that my Dam bound my head.

Quart. Alas good honest Gentleman, then it seemes that you were almost in as bad a case as poore transformed Acteon was, who appearing in a strange shape, was torne to death by his owne Dogs: and you being heard to speake so in an unexpected place, peradventure might have had your braines beat out: by your owne Friend the Watchman, and so here's to you the other cup of Claret.

Wat. Verily Brother *Quarterman*; I must unbutten a button or two before, for my Dublet growes too straight in the waste already, and yet for all that my Sute is made so little, I am afraid that the Taylors Bill will be made as much too large, when he and I shall come to a reckoning together.

Quart.

Quarter. **Well, but I would wish the knave to take them againe, were it my case although I were at some losse, to be rid of the troublesome Scab, for the law is chargable you know.**

Wat. Yes Sir, but who would have thought that the times would have changed so suddenly with me, for at that present I had the law in mine owne hands, and the proudest Taylor amongst them all durst not have resisted, nor questioned the matter in those dayes, but now I could wish with all my heart, that two or three of my loving Neighbours would take up the busines betwixt us, and it should be a warning to me how I meddle with strange Taylors any more, but I'me afraid very few will take my part, but rather rejoyce to see the Taylor take vengeance on my purse, because formerly I tooke so little pitty on theirs.

Quart. **I Sir, but not of all your Neighbours, I hope you put a difference betwixt the good and the bad: and though forty or fifty far'd the worse, I make no doubt but others came off the better.**

Wat. No indeed Brother *Quarterman*, it was not only forty nor fifty, but hundreds, nay even the whole parish, and some as far as *Bow*, and *Bramley*, which I could wish they were all as farre as *Rome*.

Quart.

Quarter. I, but Brother VVaterton, I heare there's a worse thing then all this, which is like to come upon us verry shortly.

Wat. VVhy, what is that I pray you?

Quart. Marry they say that the running Stationers of London, I meane such as use to sing Ballads, and those that cryes Malignant Pamphlets in the Streets, have all laid their heads together, and are framing a bill of indytement against us, because divers times to shew the power of our Authority, we have taken perforce or borne their ridiculous Papers.

VVat. By the masse I thought that some thing was the matter that made the knave so scawcie on *Tower-Hill* the other day, for I did but bid him to be gone, and not to stand bawling of his Ballads in that manner, and he told me that he would sing there when I was hang'd, nay, perhaps (quoth he,) one that shall be of thy owne Execution.

Quarter. But what was the subject of the matter that he sung at that time I pray you?

VVat. For that I do not well know, because he had almost done before I came to him, but I'me sure the knave pray'd both for the King, and the Queene too, in the conclusion.

Quart.

Quart. And would not the people check him for his impudencie, and take your part?

VVat. Marry they were more readier to uphold him in his knaverie, and breake my pate.

Quart. Well, then it seemes that you are in a manner as well belov'd in the Suburbs as I was in the Citie formerly; which indeed is, as the Devil loves holy-water, if their hearts were according to their hands, in a late Petition of theirs, against me.

VVat. I, brother *Quarterman*, and if they knew but as much knaverie by you, as I doe by my selfe, I would be hang'd if they would not have had a Booke, or a Ballad, out of us both by this time: I thanke them heartily, they've remembred me alreadie in their last *Christmas* Caroll, because that Mast. *Din* with his Dagger, and my selfe, suffered no Plums to come to *Ratcliffe-Crosse*, to make their prophane Pottage on that morning.

Thus got I hate of many, love of none.
(Boy, take the Reckoning) now I must be gone.

Qu. Well, brother *Waterton*, with all my heart, I'le take my leave too, friends you know must (part.

And so farewell.

FINIS.